

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**



RARS EVENTS:

- The RARS General Membership meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 PM on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 PM or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Attention Seasoned Hams! Announcement by Chuck Littlewood K4HF

The Quarterly Century Wireless Association Piedmont Chapter 126 will hold its third quarter luncheon meeting September 12 at 11:30 am at Best's Cafeteria, 220 East 11th Street, Siler City, NC. The phone number is 919-742-2475. The cafeteria is located on Hwy 64 about .3 miles from the intersection of Hwys 64 and 421 across the street from Marsh Auto Parts, on the West side of town. Members and guests are welcome. Our guest speaker will be Tommie Wood, N4YZ of Salisbury, who will give us a presentation on the Digital Mode PSK 31. More info on our organization is available at: <http://www.qcwa.org/> and for the Piedmont Chapter: <http://www.qsl.net/qcwa126/> Local Raleigh contacts are Chuck, K4HF, Charlie, WB4DCM and several other RARS Members.

Next RARS Meeting: August 4

The August RARS program will be
Tuesday, September 1, 2009.

- 7:15-7:45 PM (Outside): "How Not to Make a Dipole Antenna" by Ken McEwen KI4OTO
- 7:45-8:00 PM: Business Meeting
- 8:00 PM: 2009 Video Presentation, "FCC Forum from the Dayton Hamvention," courtesy of Amateur Radio Video News

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website (www.rars.org).



The Exciter

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcome articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

The submission deadline for each month's *Exciter* is the third Friday of the preceding month. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

Editor: Courtney Enzor KI4HOS (editor@rars.org)

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: First Alliance Church

4400 Buffaloe Road

Raleigh, NC

Time: People begin arriving at 7 PM. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 PM.

RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family – feel free to bring your little ones! Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

Listen to the nightly RARS net and check www.rars.org for details on the next dinner's location.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.130 (82.5 PL), 146.640, & 444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 PM on the 146.640. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS member to the net.



VE TESTING

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSFest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSFest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, your \$15 exam fee, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

Upcoming Hamfests

- 9/5- Shelby Hamfest
9/6 Dallas, NC
<http://shelbyhamfest.org/hamfest.htm>
- 9/12- Virginia Beach Hamfest
9/13 Virginia Beach, VA
<http://www.vabeachhamfest.com/>
- 9/12 Greater Louisville Hamfest
Sheperdsville, KY
<http://louisvillehamfest.com/>
- 9/25- 10th Annual TEN-TEC Factory Hamfest
9/26 Sevierville, TN
<http://radio.tentec.com/Hamfest>
- 10/10- 44th Annual Melbourne Hamfest
10/11 Melbourne, FL
<http://www.pcars.org/Hamfest2009/>
- 10/31 BeachFest 2009
Garden City, SC
<http://www.w4gs.org/beachfest/>

September Birthdays

Jack	K4WFJ	9/2
Wilbur	WD4RDT	9/3
Andy	KD4FHF	9/4
Mary Jo	K4MJL	9/5
Lou	K4BYN	9/7
Jack	N6UYB	9/8
Don	N4APX	9/10
John	N4YRB	9/12
Robin	KI4LEC	9/13
Sam	NC4SJ	9/13
Debra	KJ4AST	9/13
Al	KE4IUK	9/13
Nick	W1GYF	9/16
Sandy	AC1Y	9/16
Ken	ND7N	9/20
Rod	KI4LSN	9/20
Justin	AJ4MJ	9/25

Welcome to RARS!

TC Collins	KJ4LKF
Candy Orr	KJ4OBQ

July 2009 RARS Net Reports

Checkins: 4477	Special Interest Nets:
Traffic: 28/21	Checkins: 225
Minutes: 625	Minutes: 1020
Sessions: 31	Sessions: 12

RARS Website Changes

Hank Montgomery K4HM, RARS Webmaster

Work is underway to replace the old “Members Only” section of the RARS website with a more up-to-date facility that will provide **better security** for the Members Only section of the website, and improved functionality for the members.

You can see a preliminary version now at <http://rars.org/only.php> - subject to change without notice. You will have to provide your User-ID, which is your call sign if you are licensed. Otherwise it is three characters made from your first character of your first name and the first 2 characters of your last name. After entering your User-ID, click the “Get Password” button to get your password via email. After receiving your password, you can log-on and change any of the information discussed below - including your password - but be aware that since the page is still under development the entire database could be reset at any time.

The new version is based on a database that will store a “profile” for each member. Now before you start thinking of things like the FBI profilers seen on TV crime dramas, let me assure you this has nothing in common with them. Nobody outside of RARS has access to these profiles. Nobody is using these profiles to look into your behavior. **ONLY YOU** will have control of your profile - through the new page on the RARS website referenced above.

What is a Member Profile?

In the past, the RARS Treasurer kept track of all the information you provided on your membership renewal and/or annual membership form. That information is being used to seed an individual “Membership Profile” for each member in a Members Only database. Any member can update the information in their profile at any time, by logging into the Members Only pages. The RARS Treasurer will still keep track of financial information including membership dues, membership type, and donations, but your address, phone number, email address, call sign, interests and other personal information will be under your control without having to go through the Treasurer to get the change made.

Security Improvements:

Each member will have their own private User-ID (your call sign if licensed) and each member will have their own password. In order to see anything on the members only section of the website you will have to log in with your own User-ID and password. Your profile can only be accessed by using your personal

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password. Only you (and the RARS Treasurer) will be able to view or change your profile. Anyone else will be denied access because they won't know your password. Security for the new RARS Membership Roster is improved because it also requires your User-id and Password for access. The roster itself contains additional security enhancements described later.

The database itself is also much more secure. It resides on a host at RTPNET where it can only be accessed by going through a database server that requires a specific User-ID and Password. This is invisible to the user because it is handled by special scripts on our website. Those scripts are never included in the web page sent to the users' browser so they can not be hacked by simply looking into the web page source. A hacker would have to first get past the security for the host server, and then get through the security of the database itself.

Members Only Features:

There are several pages on the website that have always required passwords for access even though they were not listed on the Members Only page. When the new Members Only page is fully implemented, access to these pages will be by way of the Members Only login as well. Examples include the new Classified Ad pages, and the seldom used page for posting articles on the Current News section of the website. And of course access to the Membership Roster will be via the Members Only page.

There are also a few special pages intended to be used only by specific individuals for things like posting stars on the public-service participation page. These functions also will eventually become menu items on the Members Only page. Those pages will require that the member be authorized in members' profile.

RARS Membership Roster:

The membership roster will also be replaced with a new version that will look and feel like the old roster on steroids. You will still be able to see the entire roster or specific call-signs, and you will still be able to download a copy to print. There will be an improved search method where you will only need to know a portion of a User-ID (call sign) or name to look it up. In a later update I hope to tailor the search function after the one on the QRZ database page (see <http://www.qrz.com/db/?cmd=I>).

The current roster is actually a file that is displayed from the website. The new roster will not be a file. The display will be generated for you dynamically from the member profiles each time you view it, and presented as a web page. So there

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will never be such a thing as a roster being “out of date”. For example, suppose a member changes his address, and then a split second later you pull up a roster. The display will include his new address information. There are other planned improvements such as being able to display the roster in various sorted orders but they are down the road a bit.

Roster Security is also improved. Through your member profile you can change your phone number and/or email address to unlisted. These items will not appear on the roster if you have them flagged as unlisted. However they will still be available to the Treasurer. And based on what interests you include in your profile they could be made available to the RARS Public-Service, ARES, or SKYWARN directors.

Future Development:

In the near future the Profile will be expanded to include additional information about your interests in ham radio: NTS or “Rag Chew” nets, contests, DX, QRP, Homebrew, etc.

I welcome any suggestions from the membership. Please go to <http://rars.org/only.php> and look at the roster and profiles. If you have suggestions please send them to webmaster@rars.org and provide details. Likewise if you have questions feel free to contact me, either through email or call me on the phone number listed on the roster or the Contacts page on the RARS website.

Let's Experiment!

Justin Pinnix AJ4MJ

I had a great time with ham radio this evening. I didn't work any rare DX or contests and I only made a single contact.

What I did was experiment with a new antenna. It's not really a new antenna, as a matter of fact it's a quite old design called a random wire. As the name implies, this is a single wire run horizontally. One end of the wire connects to your antenna tuner and the other hangs free. Unlike a dipole, there is only one connection.

I've never completely understood why these antennas would work. All antennas are ultimately some variation of a dipole. A vertical has one leg above the ground and the

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other leg buried as radials. Yagis are multiple dipoles on a boom. How can these “random wire” antennas work with just a single leg?

I am in the middle of moving my shack to another room in the house. My “good” antennas need to be moved along with the shack and that is going to take some time. But I really wanted to play radio tonight. So, what better opportunity than now to try out a “quickie” antenna?

I got the antenna up in about 30 minutes. After installing it, I used an analyzer to work out the necessary tuner settings for each band. Then I connected the radio and put out a 10 watt carrier. I noticed the SWR was a bit off, so I did some tweaking and got it to about 1.9:1. After a few rounds of calling CQ, a station in Michigan called me back with a 459 signal report. We had a nice little rag chew on 40 CW.

Later, I reconnected the analyzer to investigate the SWR difference. I adjusted the tuner and got a 1.8:1. But, as soon as I removed my hand from the knob it shot up to 2.3:1. So, I played around until I got an acceptable SWR in the hands-off configuration. Then, I put the analyzer down. Suddenly the SWR shot up again.

Then, it hit me. This antenna **does** have a second leg. The case of the tuner, along with my hand and the analyzer’s case are acting as ground radials. So, I grabbed a 15 foot scrap of wire and tossed it out the window running vertically beside the house. I attached that wire to the tuner’s ground terminal to form a counterpoise. Not only did the SWRs improve to 1.4:1 with this new configuration, but they were also unaffected by my hand or the analyzer’s proximity.

The popular opinion of these antennas is that they are poor performers. My testing does not disagree with that conclusion. My 54 foot antenna would only load on several bands. 30 and 20 meters were notably absent, though it loads on 160 for some reason. But, that’s not the point of this exercise. The point was to try something new and learn how it works.

So, next time you’re wondering “what would happen if I ...”, or “why don’t people ...”, try it! Unless it will get you physically harmed or blow up your radio, why not give yourself the experience of having experimented? Yes, you can (and should) read all of this theory in a book but seeing it firsthand reinforces that knowledge and may help it “click” in your mind.

HPM/I40 Birthday Celebration Event Coming Next Month

From *The ARRL Letter* Vol. 28, No. 33

The Hiram Percy Maxim Birthday celebration is back! This year, the ARRL is honoring the 140th anniversary of the birth of the League's first president and cofounder. Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, was born September 2, 1869 and died February 17, 1936, in a Colorado hospital of complications stemming from a throat infection; his widow died just nine days later.

The operating event is open to all amateurs, and the goal is straightforward: Find the stations adding /I40 to their call signs, and contact as many as possible during the event period, September 2-9. Who is eligible to sign /I40? ARRL members who hold ARRL appointments, ARRL elected volunteers (such as ARRL Directors and Section Managers), ARRL Life Members, ARRL Headquarters staff and VEs, AECs, QSL bureau workers and awards managers (who are ARRL members). The complete list of eligible positions can be found on page 20 of the September 2009 issue of QST. If you work at least 25 /I40 stations, an attractive certificate can be yours! The certificate can be endorsed in increments of 25 QSOs, up to 100.

Time Period: 0000 UTC September 2 until 2400 UTC September 9.

Exchange: All stations signing /I40 send RS(T), their appointment and their name; others send RS(T) and their name.

Eligibility: All amateur stations may participate. ARRL Life Members, and those persons holding ARRL appointments, elected positions or ARRL HQ staff, may add /I40 to their call signs for the duration of the celebration. Volunteer Examiners, Assistant Emergency Coordinators, QSL Bureau workers, Registered Instructors and Awards Managers who are ARRL members are also invited to participate.

Miscellaneous: /I40 stations may be contacted on any band or mode for credit. You can work a station once per band and mode. Repeater contacts are valid for credit, but please be considerate of the users during a repeater's busy periods. All /I40 stations are encouraged to be as active as possible on local repeaters and nets. The certificate is available for making at least 25 contacts with /I40 stations, with endorsement increments of 25, and a maximum endorsement of 100.

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To receive the award, send in a log extract with the date, time, band, call sign worked and exchange for each /140 contact. Include your name, call sign and address, and tell us how many /140 stations you worked. Mail everything to HPM/140 Celebration, c/o WIAW, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111-1494. You can also send in your entry on a disk or CD in regular text format. All entries must be accompanied by a check or money order for \$5 (US) payable to ARRL. Please make sure your entry is postmarked by October 9, 2009.

President's Corner

Selene Montgomery KG4RMT, RARS President

There are lots of things going on in the local amateur radio neighborhood.

The next couple of months will be full of public service opportunities. Hurricane season is coming into full bloom, so now's the time to get that emergency set-up ready for radio use as well as household convenience. The largest hamfest in North Carolina will be held on Labor Day weekend – the Shelby Hamfest in Dallas, NC. Licensing classes may be starting up in the fall so pass the word to those who may be interested in entering the hobby when details become available. Every month there are at least two, and sometime more, license test sessions nearby so encourage those who are studying to step up to the plate. Our October meeting will feature the annual Auction so now's the time to start cleaning out the shack closet and find what treasures you're willing to part with, and now's the time to make room on the shelf for the new treasure you may purchase.

As the days shorten, the nightly nets may become more active as people spend more time indoors, so now's the time to get in the habit of listening and checking in so you can keep up with your fellow hams. RARSfest planning meetings will start in September so there's another place to share your talent.

We are very lucky in this area to have an active ham community with many clubs to join, and many activities to take part in. It all starts with each of us being informed and acting on that information when we can. Amateur radio is certainly alive in these parts thanks to the hams that regularly take on roles of leadership in the various organizations. This time of year is when many groups start looking for nominees to fill positions, so think about what you can do and offer your services if possible.

Minutes by Charles Swindell WB4DCM, RARS Secretary

July 28, 2009 RARS Board Meeting Minutes

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 28, 2009 at the Triangle Radio Reading Service, Raleigh, NC. The following Board members were present: Rod KI4LSN, Karl W4CHX, Greg KE4PAX, Chuck K4HF, Gary KN4AQ, Hank K4HM, Selene KG4RMT, Ken KI4OTO, John AI4RT and Charlie WB4DCM.

The meeting was called to order by President Selene KG4RMT at 7:10 PM. The minutes of the last Board meeting was approved as published.

VP Karl W4CHX thanked everyone for delaying the Board meeting for one week. The program for August will be "Grounding: down to earth comments" by Alan AB4OZ and Clyde WB2EYC. Karl does not have a program for September or November (October is the club auction). Ken KI4OTO has offered to do a practical presentation on antennas. Gary KN4AQ did a video on the new FCC person, Laura Smith's presentation at Dayton. A suggestion was made that we do multiple presentations at one time and allow members to drift from one to the other. The problem is it would require separate rooms for each presentation. The club has several avid contesters. Could we get one of them to do a program? At this time, donations for snacks are about what we are spending.

Treasurer Greg KE4PAX advised that our renewals are coming in. Membership is down but renewals over the next few weeks will get us close to where we were at the end of 2008/2009. He will email an update to the Board. The financial review is scheduled for Monday, August 10, 2009. Chuck K4HF, Hank K4HM, Ken KI4OTO and Greg KE4PAX will conduct the review.

Directors Comments:

- Ken KI4OTO is interested in doing a program on antennas. Ken again expressed interest in doing a "DXpedition" in NC. Ken would also like to see a antique radio SIG.
- Virginia NC4VA was not present but Chuck K4HF indicated that several groups have folks that they would like to get licensed. Interested parties need to get on her mailing list.
- Webmaster Hank K4HM is working on the members only section of the web page. Each member will have his own pass word. A database listing current members will be used to determine if a login is valid.

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- Field day chair Mike WA4BPJ was not present but sent his thanks to all those that participated in field day. Our score is posted on the web. Final standings from ARRL are not ready.
- VE Team will test at our regular meeting in August.
- John AI4RT Public Service advises that the MS Bike Ride in New Bern is coming up in September. Also, the Ride Without Limits in Wake Forest is coming up. Therein ensued discussion about what additional assistance we should render or offer at walks, runs, and bike rides. Karl suggested a check list of things that we can or cannot do.
- Gary KN4AQ FM Repeaters/PIO advises that the 440.525 repeater is still off the air. Danny K4ITL hopes to repair it shortly. We received no specific publicity from field day.

Old Business:

- President Selene reminded everyone that the Board has been emailed a copy of our club's liability policy for review.
- The issue of recognizing Danny Hampton K4ITL was discussed. We could make a contribution to PCRN or possibility some type of an award. VP Karl W4CHX will pursue this issue.
- Treasurer Greg KE4PAX has not had an opportunity to look into renting a larger storage unit. We currently have a 5 X 10 and are considering something larger.
- Camp Kanata has not responded to our offer to set up an amateur radio station and do a demonstration for their camp.

New Business:

- Next month we will appoint a nomination committee.
- VP Karl W4CHX brought up the possibility of doing a joint meeting or joint project with Durham FM. They meet on Tuesdays also. We discussed visiting each others meetings, doing a joint meeting, or some other activity. Karl will explore more fully.

Board Comments:

- Chuck K4HF stated that someone had seen him on channel 14 news with respect to field day. It was concluded that was old footage from a previous field day.
- Greg KE4PAX advised that we are currently paying \$46 per month for our 5X10 storage unit and receive one month free for paying 12 months in advance.

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- Secretary Charlie WB4DCM asked the question as to the disposition of the visitors information slips that are collected at each monthly meeting. Currently, they are attached to the copy of the minutes maintained by the Secretary.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Minutes by Charles Swindell WB4DCM, RARS Secretary

August 4, 2009 RARS General Meeting Minutes

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 4, 2009 at the First Alliance Church, Buffalo Road, Raleigh, NC. There were 56 members and guests present.

President Selene KG4RMT called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. The following visitors were welcomed to the meeting: Candy Orr, Haley Transou, and Charles WA4OSS. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as published.

The following announcements were made:

- Treasurer Greg KE4PAX advised that we now have 196 members. An email reminder about dues was sent.
- Thanks for the donations for snacks.
- RARS monthly dinner will be next Tuesday, August 11 at the Golden Corral on Glenwood Ave. All are welcome.
- The RARS Board will meet on Tuesday, August 18 at 7:00 PM at the Triangle Radio Reading Service on Six Forks Rd. All RARS members are eligible to attend.
- There will be an after meeting gathering this evening.
- CFAR hamfest will be Saturday, August 8 in Fayetteville.
- The Huntsville, AL hamfest is August 15 and 16.
- The Shelby hamfest (now held in Dallas, NC) will be Labor Day weekend, September 5 and 6.
- The Virginia Beach hamfest will be September 12 and 13.
- Virginia NC4VA Education coordinator advised that she had some license manuals available. Skywarn net will be tonight at 9:15PM on 146.88 immediately following the PCTN. KI4KKX will provide a program on weather tips for safe boating.

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- John AI4RT Public Service coordinator announced that planning for the next RARS Fest will begin on Monday, September 28. On September 12 and 13, the Bike MS Ride will be held in New Bern. On September 19, the Ride Without Limits will be held in Wake Forest. Volunteers are needed for both events.
- Dick KD4ISC and Haley Transou took the stage to talk in more detail about the Bike MS Ride in New Bern. First, a thank you for all those that have helped in the past. They are expecting 2500 cyclists who will be riding over a 200 mile course. There will be 30, 50, 75, and 100 mile courses for the cyclists to ride. They are in need of SAG support. No FEMA courses are required. There will be a planning meeting prior to the event. They need about 50 hams. Please register by Friday, August 7.
- Hank K4HM Webmaster advised that he has been working on the individual profiles. Each member needs to log on and ensure that his/her information is current.

The drawing was won by David KF4VXJ.

VP Karl W4CHX advised that the September meeting would have two programs. The first would be an antenna demonstration with some practical tips. The second would be the video presentation by the new FCC person, Laura Smith which was presented at the Dayton Hamvention. Tonight's program is "Grounding: down to earth comments" by Alan AB4OZ and Clyde WB2EYC.

Alan and Clyde then took the stage and presented the program. They had a physical demonstration as well as slides. The reasons you want a ground is for safety and performance. By grounding your equipment, you minimize touch potential; equalize potential differences; and prevent damage from lightning. Bonding is the means by which potential difference between conductive elements is made to be zero. Alan and Clyde demonstrated the technique to establish a ground and tie it all together. You actually need a grounding system. Such a system can be somewhat complex. The types of materials that can be used for a grounding system is copper, bronze, stainless, and copper plate steel. A possible reference is Lightning Protection for the Amateur Radio Station by Ron Block KB2UYT. For additional reference information, go to the RARS web page.

It would be almost impossible for me to cover all the information provided in this presentation in a few paragraphs. Once again we have been provided with a great presentation. I now realize how inadequate my grounding is. Thanks Alan and Clyde!!

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM. Our next meeting will be September 1.

Local Amateur Radio Nets

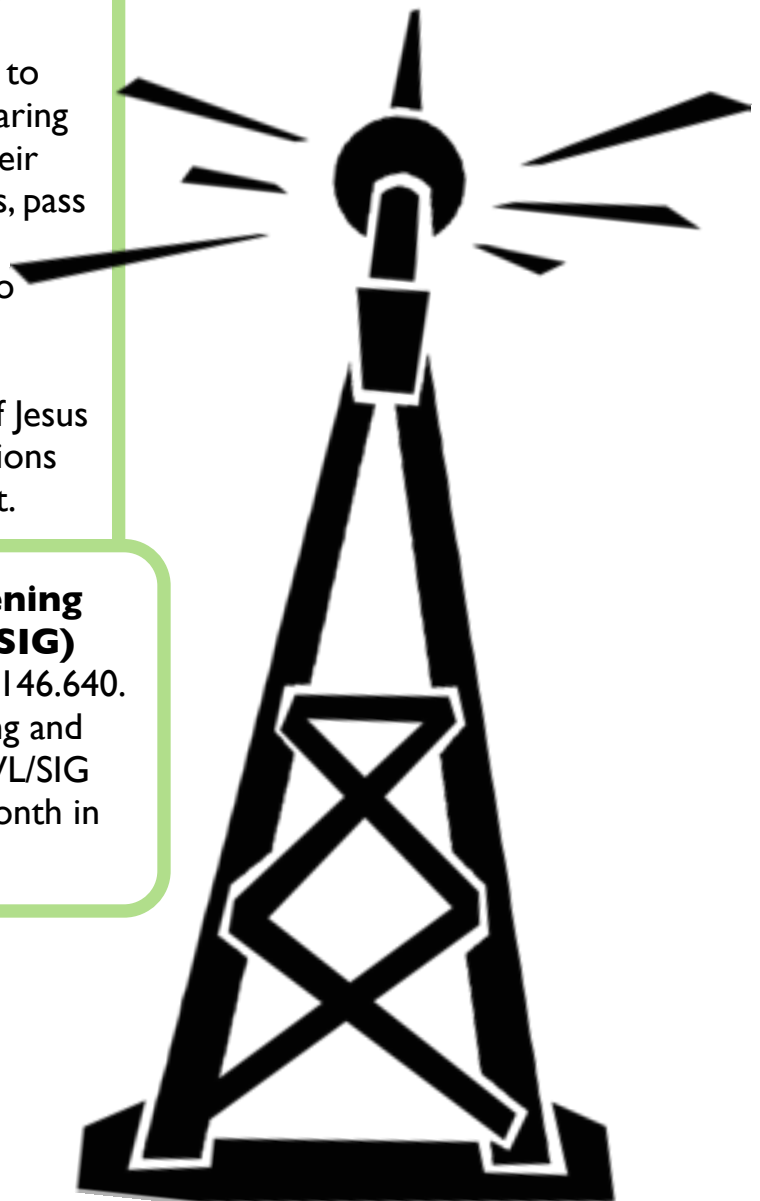
The **RARS Technical & Trader's Net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.640 after the 8 PM RARS net.

Apex Emergency Response Communications Net

This net meets weekly each Sunday evening @ 9 PM on the 146.640 repeater. The purpose of the net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet. The Apex ERC Net provides amateur radio emergency communications for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. All stations are invited to participate in this net.

Join the **Tarheel Shortwave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG) Net** on Monday evenings @ 9 PM on 146.640. We discuss *all* areas of radio monitoring and welcome your logs! We also have a SWL/SIG meeting on the third Monday of the month in addition to our regular net.

The **VOIP Hurricane Net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.



Local Amateur Radio Nets

Join us every evening at 8 PM on the 146.640 repeater for the **RARS Two-Meter Net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcome to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday @ 9:15 PM on the 146.880 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

September 22: "Drought Update" with NWS Hydrologist Mike Money Penny.

The **PCTN (Piedmont Costal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 PM on the 146.880. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 (PL tone 82.5).

The **Wake County ARES Net** meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.880 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of emergency communications for our served agencies, such as the American

Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. For more information, check out www.wakeares.org.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 Net** every Monday night at 7:30 PM. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Coastal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.

Calling All HAMS: Come Operate Aboard BB-55 From Scuttlebutt, Newsletter of the Battleship North Carolina

Our dedicated radio volunteers from the Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club approached us several months ago with an idea they borrowed from the USS MISSOURI. They wanted to offer fellow HAMS the opportunity to transmit from the Battleship NORTH CAROLINA's radio rooms. Thanks to their willingness to staff this program, it is a reality.

Operating under the call of the ship, NI4BK, guests may enjoy a 2-hour appointment with a club member who will meet them at the Battleship ticket window. Operations will be on a 20-meter voice using a modern transceiver located in the ship's original main radio room. For operators who prefer CW (Morse code), transmissions will occur from the ship's main transmitter room. Operators will need to bring their own key or use the ship's straight key. Azalea Coast members will take care of all QSL cards. Appointments are free with regular paid ship admission. To make an appointment, please contact Kim Sincox, Museum Services Director: 910-251-5797 extension 3006 or museum@battleshipnc.com.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

EXCITER

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